

10  
**LOVE**

QUALITY  
PUBLICATION

JUNE. No. 5

10¢

# Confessions

**I HAD TO WIN MY MAN  
BACK FROM A WOMAN  
WHO WAS HALF ANGEL,  
HALF FIEND!**

See

**PHANTOM OF  
TEMPTATION**



*Jean Wallace in "The Man On The Eiffel Tower" released by RKO*





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# Phantom of TEMPTATION

ONE MOMENT, THE HEIGHTS OF ECSTASY IN THE EMBRACE OF THE MAN I ADORED... AND THE NEXT MOMENT, HUNGRY, EMPTY ARMS THAT PLEADED IN VAIN FOR MY LOVE TO STAY! THIS HAD BEEN MY LIFE! YET SOMEHOW, IN THE END, I HAD ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO COPE WITH THE WARS AND BATTLES THAT LURED HIM FROM ME! BUT HOW WAS I TO WIN HIM BACK WHEN I FOUND HIM SPELL-BOUND BY THE KISSES OF A WOMAN WHO WAS HALF ANGEL, HALF FIEND?



It was happening again! Was this the third time or the fourth that Rod Hall was leaving me to fight in a war of strangers?

YOU CAN'T DO IT TO ME AGAIN, ROD! YOU CAN'T... YOU CAN'T! FIRST IT WAS THAT CARIBBEAN REVOLUTION, THEN SOUTH AMERICA, THEN... OH, WHAT'S THE USE OF TRYING TO REMEMBER? THERE'VE BEEN SO MANY!

BUT, SUE...



NO, DON'T SAY IT! I'VE HEARD IT BEFORE! YOU'RE GOING TO FIGHT ON THE SIDE OF JUSTICE! WHO CARES ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE FIGHTING FOR? ALL I KNOW IS I LOVE YOU, AND I'LL LOSE YOU BECAUSE YOU KEEP MAKING DATES WITH DEATH!

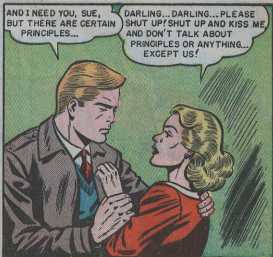
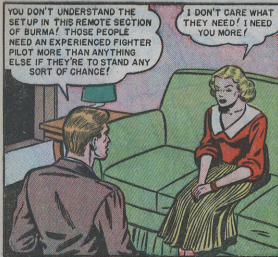
DARLING, I CAN'T HELP IT! I MUST GO!



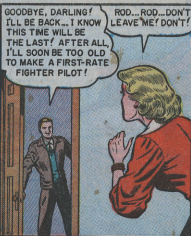
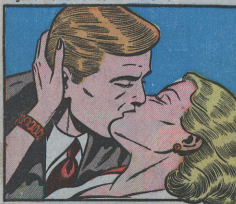
Line Art's?



# LOVE CONFESSIONS



But even as I gave myself up to the tender warmth of Rod's kiss, I knew that I had lost again! He would kiss me and leave!



He was gone! My arms ached where they had been touching him a minute ago, but he was no longer there!



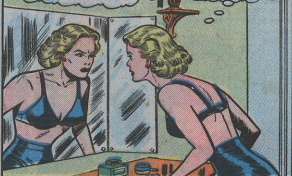
Yet fighting it's way up from the depths of my misery was a faint spark of hope!

ROD DIDN'T MEAN IT ABOUT THIS BEING THE LAST TIME! THERE'LL BE OTHER BATTLES TO FIGHT! BUT MAYBE HE WAS RIGHT ABOUT GETTING TOO OLD FOR THE JOB SOON! MAYBE EVEN A SICKLY AIR FORCE WON'T BE LOOKING FOR A PILOT OVER TWENTY-ONE!



And then the reaction set in! Anger and resentment overwhelmed me!

IN THE MEANTIME, SUE HALL, I SUPPOSE YOU'RE JUST GOING TO SIT AROUND AND MOPE FOR YOUR WANDERING SWEET-HEART... JUST STAY CLOSE TO THE FIRE, AND PRAY THAT YOU DON'T GET A WIRE TELLING YOU HE WAS SHOT DOWN IN FLAMES BY SOME ENEMY HE NEVER KNEW, AND HAD NO REAL REASON TO HATE!





# LOVE CONFESSIONS



NOT MUCH YOU WILL!  
YOU'VE DONE IT  
TOO MANY TIMES  
ALREADY!



YOU'RE GOING OUT AND LIVE LIKE  
OTHER WOMEN! YOU'RE NOT GOING  
TO LET ALL YOUR HAPPINESS  
DEPEND ON THE DOUBTFUL  
FUTURE OF MR. ROD HALL!

But it was more easily said than done! With  
an aching heart you can be lonelier in a crowd  
than by yourself!



IT'S HOPELESS! ALL  
THIS GAYETY JUST  
SEEMS FOOLISH TO  
ME!



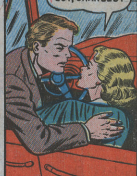
HMMM! YOU DON'T SEEM TOO  
ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT MY  
COMPANY, SUE!

SORRY,  
PHILIP!  
I GUESS  
I SHOULDN'T  
HAVE COME!

Your escort of the evening  
sounds like an idiot when  
he attempts what would  
only seem normal  
ordinarily!

BUT JUST ONE GOODNIGHT  
KISS, SUE...

DON'T  
BEHAVE LIKE A  
HIGH SCHOOL  
BOY, CHARLES!



No, to a  
woman in  
love a kiss  
can only  
mean the  
lips of her  
beloved! But my love  
was courting  
death in  
some  
foreign  
skies, and  
I had to  
content  
myself  
with his  
image!



ROD... ROD...  
COME BACK  
TO ME!

The days  
went by and  
then the  
weeks, and  
finally  
months...  
months with  
no word from  
Rod! How  
could I even  
hope for a  
letter from  
him, fighting  
in those  
remote and  
barbarous  
outposts?



IT'S NO USE TRYING TO  
HAVE A GOOD TIME! I  
WON'T SUCCEED!



# LOVE CONFESSIONS

But I was caught between the futility of trying to have a social life and the fear of being alone with my unhappiness!

I wasn't very good company for my friends, but at one time I had had so many of them that I hadn't yet succeeded in boring them all! And that night at Meg Campbell's house...

SUE, I'VE GOT THE MOST EXCITING MAN HERE TONIGHT! YOU MUST MEET HIM! YOU OUGHT TO HAVE A LOT IN COMMON!

I MUSTN'T STAY HERE ALONE! I'LL GO MAD IF I DO!



I didn't even give a thought to what my friend was saying! What could I have in common with anybody, unless there could be another human being who missed Rod Hall as I did?

FRANK, I WANT YOU TO MEET SUE DELLWOOD! SUE, THIS IS FRANK BAILEY!

I'M DELIGHTED!



For the first time in months, I felt a glimmer of interest in the man I was with...

YOU DON'T LIVE IN THIS TOWN, DO YOU, MR. BAILEY?

NO, I DON'T!



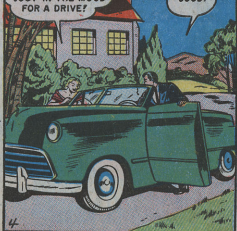
NOT VERY TALKATIVE, ARE YOU?

MAYBE IF WE COULD GET OUT OF HERE AND BREATHE SOME FRESH AIR, I'D FEEL UP TO SOME CONVERSATION!



I THINK YOU'VE HIT IT, MR. BAILEY! I'M JUST IN THE MOOD FOR A DRIVE!

GOOD!



Yes, even the prospect of being alone with him intrigued me! There was a quiet sadness about Frank Bailey that nettled my curiosity!

YOU'RE VERY LOVELY, SUE! I SUPPOSE I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT!

ANY WOMAN WHO DENIES THAT SHE'D LIKE TO HEAR IT IS LYING!





# LOVE CONFESSIONS

We stopped near a beach! The sound of the waves rippling onto the shore, the cool stillness of the night, my determination to clutch at whatever life had to offer without Rod Hall... all combined with the attraction a man like Frank Bailey would have for a woman!



I SUPPOSE I OUGHT NOT...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING, FRANK!

Was this the same sensation that swept over me when Rod took me in his arms? I wanted it to be! I wanted it to be stronger if possible!

As our lips parted Frank seemed to heave a sigh... and tenderly, lovingly, longingly, a name rolled off his tongue...



MARA!

I was seized with an uncontrollable impulse to laugh...

The misery in Frank's voice touched me!

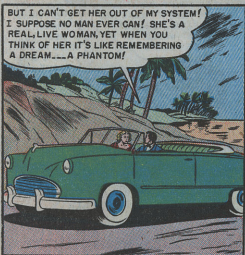
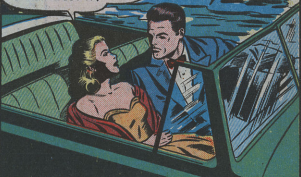


HA! HA! I'M GLAD TO SERVE AS A PINCH HITTER, MR. BAILEY... BUT I CAN'T SAY THAT IT'S VERY COMPLIMENTARY TO ME! YOU WERE KISSING ME AND THINKING OF SOMEONE ELSE!

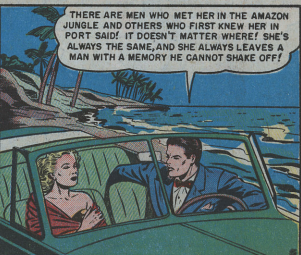
SUE... I'M SO SORRY!

IT'S ALL RIGHT, FRANK! I'M AFRAID THAT KISS DIDN'T MEAN AS MUCH TO EITHER OF US AS WE'D HAVE LIKED IT TO! AND I CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR THINKING OF SOMEONE ELSE! WOULD YOU LIKE TO TALK ABOUT IT?

SUE, YOU'RE BEING VERY KIND! YOU'RE A BETTER WOMAN THAN MARA, I'M SURE!



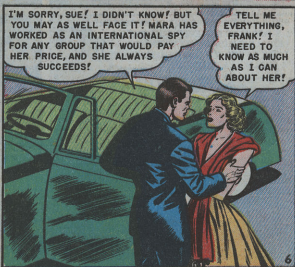
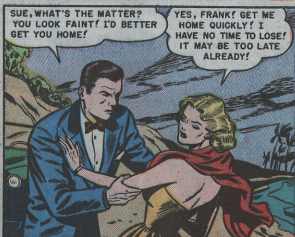
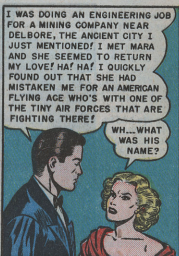
BUT I CAN'T GET HER OUT OF MY SYSTEM! I SUPPOSE NO MAN EVER CAN! SHE'S A REAL, LIVE WOMAN, YET WHEN YOU THINK OF HER IT'S LIKE REMEMBERING A DREAM... A PHANTOM!



THERE ARE MEN WHO MET HER IN THE AMAZON JUNGLE AND OTHERS WHO FIRST KNEW HER IN PORT SAID! IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE! SHE'S ALWAYS THE SAME, AND SHE ALWAYS LEAVES A MAN WITH A MEMORY HE CANNOT SHAKE OFF!



LOVE CONFESSIONS





# LOVE CONFESSIONS

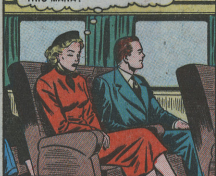
IF SHE'S AFTER ROD HALL, IT MUST BE BECAUSE HE POSSESSES SOME VALUABLE INFORMATION! SHE WON'T FAIL! SHE NEVER DOES!

SHE MUST FAIL THIS TIME! I HAVEN'T WAITED ALL THESE YEARS FOR ROD WITH BURNING DEATH AS MY RIVAL, ONLY TO LOSE HIM TO ANOTHER WOMAN... NO MATTER WHAT HER FASCINATION MAY BE!



If only my brave words of the night before could have stayed with me next morning on the plane! Instead, I knew doubt and fear!

ROD... ROD... YOUR ONLY OTHER LOVE WAS THE LOVE OF ADVENTURE, THE JOY OF FIGHTING FOR THE RIGHT SIDE! I HAD TO ACCEPT THAT! BUT YOU COULDN'T HAVE FORSAKEN ME FOR THIS... THIS MARA!



I took a brief rest at what passed for a hotel in Delbore, then set about my desperate quest... the quest for Rod Hall and Mara!

DO YOU KNOW HER, SIR... THE WOMAN NAMED MARA? I HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT YOU HAVE SPENT MANY YEARS IN DELBORE! WHERE CAN I FIND HER?



I HAVE KNOWN HER! THAT I CAN NEVER FORGET! BUT AS TO HER WHEREABOUTS... SOME THINGS ARE BETTER LEFT UNTOLD!

MY LOVE WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO SEE ME THROUGH THE TORTURE OF HIS EVERY LEAVE-TAKING, THE AGONY OF KNOWING THAT HE MIGHT DIE IN THE CLOUDS... AND IT'S STRONG ENOUGH TO DEFEAT MARA IF SHE'S ALREADY FOUND THE OPPORTUNITY TO USE HER WILES ON ROD!

I KNOW IT'S FUTILE TO ARGUE WITH YOU ABOUT IT, SUE! YOU'LL GO TO DELBORE, AND GOOD LUCK!



The long, weary plane journey came to an end... and then came a harrowing trek through jungle and wasteland!

I MUSTN'T GIVE UP... I CAN'T!

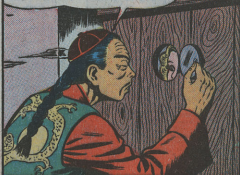


At last we were there! The ancient and crumbling city of Delbore stood before us!



The tale was the same everywhere! Mara not only left love in the hearts of men, she also left fear!

MINE IS A HUMBLE AND POOR LIFE, BUT IT IS THE ONLY ONE I HAVE! I CAN TELL YOU NOUGHT OF MARA!





# LOVE CONFESSIONS

Strange and mysterious are the ways of the Orient! Secrets either stay locked away forever or are suddenly borne aloft for all to hear! Just as my search began to seem hopeless...

I HAVE HEARD THAT YOU SEEK MARA! PERHAPS I CAN HELP!

OH... I'D BE SO GRATEFUL!

I didn't even think of questioning him... didn't care why he wanted to help me or how he had learned what I wanted! All that mattered was that he could succeed where I might fail!

COME WITH ME!

BEYOND THAT DOOR YOU WILL FIND MARA!

And suddenly there was a voice floating through the door... a voice silky and soft and caressing... the voice of Mara!

TELL ME MORE, MY BELOVED!

And then, like a dagger in my heart, there was another voice... the voice of Rod Hall!

MARA, I DON'T WANT TO TALK ANYMORE! I WANT TO KISS YOU!

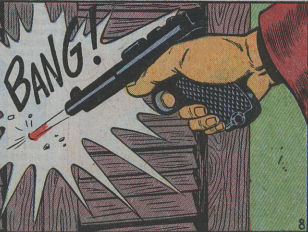
I could bear no more! Desperately I tried to open the locked door... and like a wounded animal I cried out in pain!

ROD! ROD!

IT... IT SOUNDS LIKE...

DO NOT GO TO THE DOOR, MY DEAR ONE! STAY WITH MARA!

ALLOW ME!

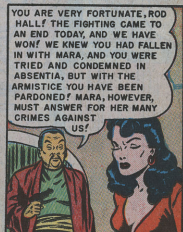




# LOVE CONFESSIONS



The silky, caressing voice was coming from the lovely lips of Mara, and Ari Mikuet was answering her... but from Rod's unhappy face my eyes were suddenly roving to a wire that led to a curtain in the corner...



We were alone together...Rod and I...in Mara's lair!

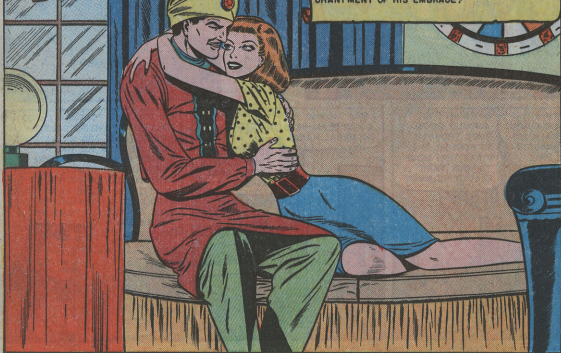


The hint of sadness about Rod remained... the same sadness that had clung to Frank Bailey... the sadness that was the mark left on men who had known Mara! But I knew in my innermost heart that the intensity of my love would dispel it! Someday it would be gone forever!



# DREAD DESIRE

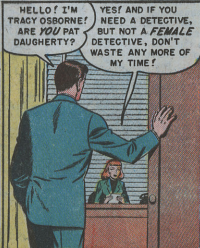
WHAT WARPED HYPNOTIC HOLD DID "DOCTOR" ERIC FRANZ HAVE OVER ME THAT SENT ME CRASHING TO THE VERY BORDERLINE OF THAT "OTHER WORLD"? HOW COULD HE MAKE ME FORGET MY TRUE LOVE, TRACY OSBORNE, IN THE SAVAGE ENCHANTMENT OF HIS EMBRACE?



When I inherited my father's detective agency, I decided to keep it and make a go of it! But business was terrible! This very morning I had missed out on another case simply because I looked too fragile for such a man-sized job! So, when Tracy Osborne walked in, my pent-up fury at clients generally, and men specifically almost lost me another case!

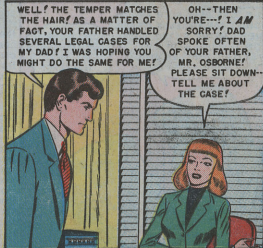
HELLO! I'M TRACY OSBORNE! ARE YOU PAT DAUGHERTY?

YES! AND IF YOU NEED A DETECTIVE, BUT NOT A *FEMALE* DETECTIVE, DON'T WASTE ANY MORE OF MY TIME!



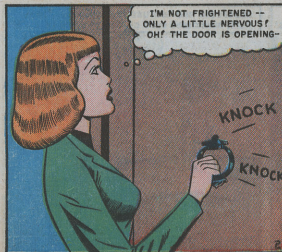
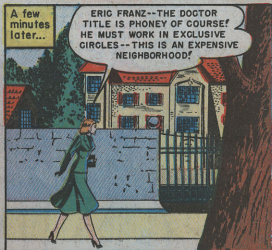
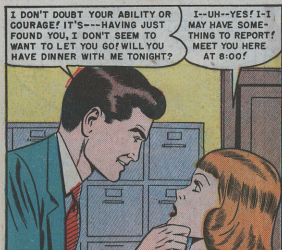
WELL! THE TEMPER MATCHES THE HAIR! AS A MATTER OF FACT, YOUR FATHER HANDLED SEVERAL LEGAL CASES FOR MY DAD! I WAS HOPING YOU MIGHT DO THE SAME FOR ME!

OH--THEN YOU'RE---? I *AM* SORRY! DAD SPOKE OFTEN OF YOUR FATHER, MR. OSBORNE! PLEASE SIT DOWN--TELL ME ABOUT THE CASE!





LOVE CONFESSIONS



# LOVE CONFESSIONS

There was a magnetic aura of mystery about this Doctor Franz! He seemed to exude an undercurrent of intense excitement! I knew at first glance that here was a *man*...at once tender and brutal!

HOW DID YOU HEAR OF ME, MY DEAR? I AM NOT KNOWN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC!

THROUGH A--UH--A FRIEND OF MRS. OSBORNE'S! SHE PRAISED YOU SO HIGHLY I *HAD* TO COME TO YOU! WON'T YOU *PLEASE* HELP ME?

A heavy odor of musk hung over the room...and mystery lurked in the shadows!

I CAN GIVE YOU ONLY A MOMENT NOW! WE WILL MAKE AN APPOINTMENT FOR TOMORROW! BUT TELL ME A LITTLE OF YOUR PROBLEM, MISS--?

DAUGHTERTY! THERE'S A YOUNG MAN--HE WANTS TO MARRY ME! BUT SINCE I'M TO INHERIT

A LARGE SUM OF MONEY SOON, I'M NOT SURE WHETHER HE LOVES ME FOR MYSELF OR NOT!

I felt myself wanting to succumb to the spell woven by the burning eyes fixed on mine! They radiated a fiery passion...a power which could bend the minds of others to their will!

AHHH! I THOUGHT SO! SO BEAUTIFUL A LADY COULD NEED HELP ONLY IN AN AFFAIR OF THE

G--GOOD--BYE--DOCTOR! THANK YOU!



Outside, I almost regretfully shook myself free of Eric Franz's strange, hypnotic charm! Then...



I ALMOST FORGOT! MY APPOINTMENT WITH TRACY OSBORNE! I'LL HAVE TO HURRY!

A few hours later, after dinner...



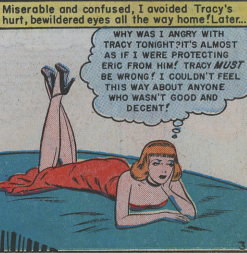
WELL, HOW DID IT GO TODAY WITH THAT CROOK?

REMEMBER, TRACY OSBORNE, A MAN IS INNOCENT UNTIL HE'S PROVEN GUILTY!



WHAT'S WRONG, PAT? YOU'VE BEEN ACTING STRANGELY ALL EVENING!

I DON'T KNOW, TRACY! I'M JUST TERRIBLY TIRED, I GUESS! WOULD YOU PLEASE TAKE ME HOME?



Miserable and confused, I avoided Tracy's hurt, bewildered eyes all the way home! Later...

WHY WAS I ANGRY WITH TRACY TONIGHT? IT'S ALMOST AS IF I WERE PROTECTING ERIC FROM HIM! TRACY *MUST* BE WRONG! I COULDN'T FEEL THIS WAY ABOUT ANYONE WHO WASN'T GOOD AND DECENT!

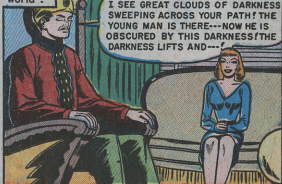


# LOVE CONFESSIONS

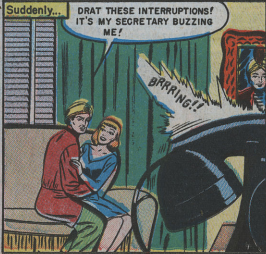
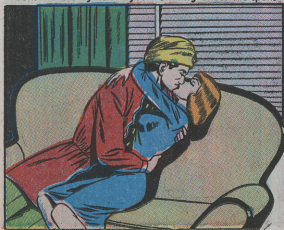
I went to Eric's office the next morning--and again the following morning! Each time I saw him I was drawn further into the web of enchantment which only he could create for me...until I began to live only for the hours I spent with him! Then...one morning...



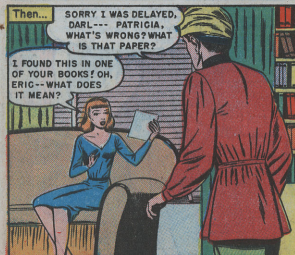
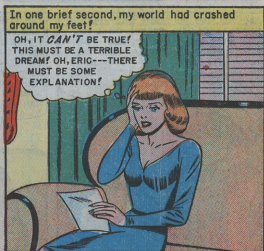
We went again into Eric's private chamber...a room which no longer was strange or fearful...but seemed rather to echo the intense feeling between Eric and me! Then he went into his medium's trance to commune, as he said "with those of the other world"!



I was paralyzed by the savage fierceness of Eric's kiss...and slowly felt myself sinking under his spell!



# LOVE CONFESSIONS





# LOVE CONFESSIONS



ERIC! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

I DON'T KNOW! BUT YOU WILL STAY *HERE* UNTIL I HAVE TIME TO THINK!

As I heard Eric turn the key in the lock, I gave way to the torturing anguish of my breaking heart!



OH!! *SOB*! HOW COULD I HAVE GIVEN MY LOVE TO SUCH A VILE CREATURE? *SOB*

Suddenly...from the other room!

NO! NO! YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE!

OUT OF MY WAY, YOU NO-GOOD CROOK!

SOCK!  
JGGGHHH!

I knew that voice! It was Tracy!

TRACY! I'M LOCKED IN HERE!

PAT!! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

TRACY! I FOUND THE EVIDENCE! ERIC HAS IT! BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I DIDN'T MEAN TO INTERFERE, DARLING, BUT WHEN I HEARD THAT MOTHER WAS COMING HERE TODAY, I WAS TERRIBLY AFRAID THAT SHE MIGHT MEET YOU AND UNKNOWINGLY REVEAL YOUR IDENTITY! THANK HEAVENS I *DID* COME!!



After a quick call to the District Attorney...

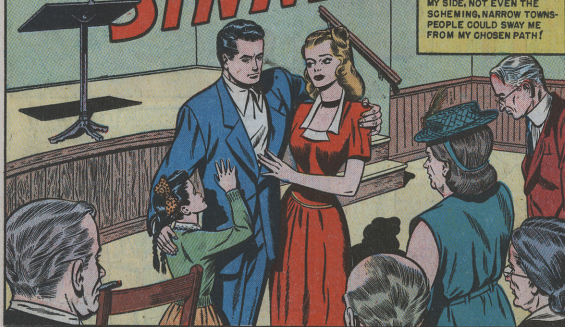
GOOD WORK, DETECTIVE DAUGHTERY! YOUR DAD WOULD BE PROUD OF YOU! BUT IF I HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE A FEMALE PRIVATE EYE ALL YOUR LIFE!

And some months later, after Eric was brought to justice, I closed my detective agency, and took my fee for the case in the form of a honeymoon trip to Niagara Falls as Mrs. Tracy Osborne!



# Was I a SINNER?

THIS WAS OUR REWARD FOR THE FIGHT WE HAD MADE AGAINST OUR LOVE! THIS HOWLING, VICIOUS MOB WHO CALLED US OUTCAST AND UNFIT TO LIVE WITH DECENT PEOPLE! BUT I, JAN MANSFIELD, HAD MADE MY CHOICE! WITH THE MAN I LOVED AT MY SIDE, NOT EVEN THE SCHEMING, NARROW TOWNS-PEOPLE COULD SWAY ME FROM MY CHOSEN PATH!



Working as a model had brought me into contact with too many Romeos for whom art was an excuse for other things!

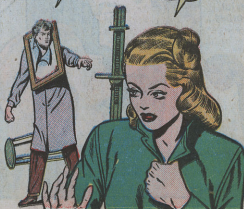
I had been humiliated too often and clawed my way out of too many studios! I wanted no part of art, for exercise!

LOOK, GENIUS, YOU'RE PAWING THE WRONG SURFACE! LET'S GET ON WITH THE WORK!

SUCH FORM! SUCH PURITY OF LINE! JAN, YOU'RE ADORABLE! LET'S NOT TALK OF WORK, LET'S TALK ABOUT LOVE! LOVE IS THE TRUEST ART!

YOU LITTLE DEVIL! GET OUT OF HERE! AND DON'T BOTHER TO COME BACK!

DON'T WORRY, YOU COULDN'T DRAG ME BACK WITHOUT AN ARMED GUARD!





# LOVE CONFESSIONS

When the Benton Agency offered me a chance to model for Mark Randall, I wasn't eager to accept!

I DON'T CARE IF HE'S A SECOND MICHAEL ANGELO! NO, THANKS! AREN'T THERE ANY WOMEN ARTISTS? HOW ABOUT GRANDMA MOSES? I COULD IMITATE TREES ON A LANDSCAPE FOR HER! I'M SICK OF PLAYING RING-AROUND-THE-ROSE WITH THESE SMOCKED CENTAURS!

MARK RANDALL IS A RESPECTABLE PAINTER! HE'S MARRIED, HAS A SMALL CHILD AND IN NO WAY RESEMBLES THE ARTISTIC FAKERS YOU'VE BEEN EXPOSED TO!

WE WOULDN'T THINK OF SENDING A MODEL TO AN ARTIST WE HADN'T THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED! YOU SHOULD HAVE COME HERE LONG AGO!

YOU'VE CONVINCED ME! HOW DO I GET OUT TO WOODSTONE WHERE RANDALL LIVES?

I liked Mark on sight! Liked his clean, rugged good looks and his direct, down-to-earth way of doing things!

IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING WHY I CHOSE YOU TO MODEL FOR ME, I SAW YOU POSING FOR FLETCHER TURNBULL ONCE WHEN I PAID HIM A VISIT!

WHAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THE MURAL, MR. RANDALL?

I PAINT WHAT I KNOW BEST, PEOPLE! I'M DOING A MURAL ON THE FOUNDERS OF THIS PART OF THE COUNTRY! THAT'S WHY I WANT YOU TO POSE FOR ME!

WHY ME? THE ONLY PIONEERING I EVER DID WAS TAKING A TRAIN OUT HERE TO SEE YOU! I'M STRICTLY A CITY CHILD!

I wasn't a woman to him, I was something around which he could realize an idea with paints and brushes! I wasn't used to that! It was new and challenging!

YOU HAVE THE QUALITY I WANT! THE HARDINESS AND LUSTY VITALITY OF THOSE FIRST WOMEN SETTLERS! I'LL PAY YOU A WEEKLY SALARY, PLUS TRAVELLING EXPENSES!

I'LL BUY THAT! WHEN DO WE START? IT ALL SOUNDS WONDERFUL! ALL BUT THAT LONG TRAIN RIDE!

TWO DAYS FROM NOW! ON GOOD DAYS, I'LL PICK YOU UP AT THE AIRPORT AND FLY YOU OUT HERE IN MY TWO-SEATER PLANE! YOU'LL SAVE A COUPLE OF HOURS THAT WAY!

THAT'S SWELL! YOU HAVE MY NUMBER? IF IT'S FLYING WEATHER, YOU CAN CALL ME!

Talking with him that first day, I felt that his deep, brown eyes saw right through me and I wondered if he sensed how strongly I was attracted to him!

I GUESS THAT TAKES CARE OF EVERYTHING! I'LL NEED YOU THREE TIMES A WEEK!

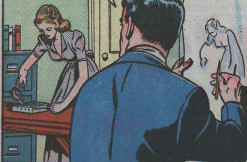
THAT'S JUST RIGHT FOR ME! WELL, UNTIL DAY AFTER TOMORROW THEN! SO LONG!

# LOVE CONFESSIONS

If I had not known that he was married, I might have let myself become interested in him from the beginning! Everything about him excited my curiosity!

AND WHAT DID YOU DO IN THE ARMY?

LANDED IN THE AIR CORPS AND FLEW P-38'S IN NEW GUINEA AND THE PHILIPPINES! THAT WAS RUGGED COUNTRY! THOSE KIDS ON THE GROUND HAD IT PLENTY TOUGH! MUD, MALARIA-INFESTED JUNGLE, AND THE CONSTANT HEAT!



His voice was compelling, warm and intimate! Yet part of him seemed to be always hidden from view! A vital part, the part I wanted most to know!

IT MUST HAVE BEEN RUGGED FOR YOU, TOO, MR. RANDALL!

NOT REALLY! THINGS HAPPENED TOO FAST UP THERE! EITHER YOU WERE HIT, OR YOU WEREN'T! NO FILTH, NO FURY...ONLY THE WAITING WAS BAD!



WAITING EATS AT YOU, WEARS YOU DOWN, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE WAITING FOR! CALL ME MARK. I CAN'T STAND FORMALITY!

DID YOU COME HERE RIGHT AFTER THE WAR AND START PAINTING AGAIN, MR.-MARK?

I wondered about his wife and child and why he never mentioned them! The answers came unexpectedly! As unexpectedly as Rick Saunders' visit to Mark!

NO, I GOT BACK, AND...

YOU OLD SLICKSTER! HOW LONG HAS THIS BEEN GOING ON? HERE I COME TO PROVIDE YOU WITH DIVERSION AND COMPANY, AND WHAT DO I FIND? A COVER GIRL! DON'T STAND THERE! INTRODUCE ME!



I can see now how Rick's coming set so many things in motion, how Mark and I might never really have known each other if it had not been for Rick's blunder!

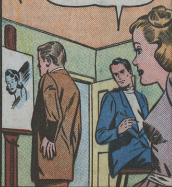
HOW LUCKY FOR YOU THAT I CAME OUT HERE! A GUY LIKE MARK CAN GET PRETTY TIRESOME! TOO MUCH WORK AND NO PLAY! NOW ME, I'M DIFFERENT!

I HAVEN'T MINDED THE WORK! I'VE ENJOYED IT!



THAT'S BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN WITH ME! MARK, YOU HAVEN'T FINISHED THIS! GOOD OLD SANDRA! HOW IS SHE, MARK?

STILL THE SAME! NO BETTER, NO WORSE!



SAY! WHY DON'T I RUN OVER AND WHEEL HER HERE? WE COULD HAVE A PARTY! BET YOU HAVEN'T BROUGHT HER OVER HERE IN AGES!

NO! YOU'LL DO NOTHING OF THE KIND! NOT NOW, OR ANY OTHER TIME! IS THAT CLEAR?





# LOVE CONFESSIONS

Mark's fury shocked me, but showed me a different side of his character... the side of him that remained hidden from all but his closest friends!

I REALLY PUT MY FOOT IN IT THAT TIME! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO SUGGEST BRINGING HIS WIFE OVER HERE!

BUT WHY? WHY DOES HE MIND HER COMING HERE? AND WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY "WHEELING HER OVER" WHEN YOU WERE TALKING TO HIM?

As Rick told me the story, my heart ached for Mark! Doomed to spend the rest of his life with the living memory of one innocent mistake!



As I listened, the hurt on Mark's face as he stormed out the door, came before my eyes and I wanted to comfort him, tell him I believed him!

JUDY WAS FIVE WHEN IT HAPPENED! THEY'D TAKEN HER TO A SUMMER CAMP AND WERE COMING BACK HERE! THEY QUARRELLED ON THE WAY! MARK WAS DRIVING! SANDRA ACCUSED HIM OF CARING MORE FOR THE CHILD THAN FOR HER! HE TURNED AROUND TO ANSWER HER AND MISSED SEEING A TRUCK STALLED ON THE ROAD!

OH, HOW HORRIBLE! BUT MARK COULDN'T PLAN A THING LIKE THAT!



Mark was calm when he returned to the studio! As though he had fought with himself and come to a decision! For the first time, he looked at me and let himself see me as a woman!

MY APOLOGIES TO YOU BOTH FOR BLOWING UP JUST NOW! I GUESS RICK TOLD YOU THE GORY DETAILS OF MY LOVE AND MARRIAGE, JAN, SO YOU CAN UNDERSTAND MY REASON! I DO UNDERSTAND, MARK! BELIEVE ME, I DO!



The barrier between us was broken! During the next few months, I realized that I was in love with him! Desperately, hopelessly in love! And I knew he felt the same! But the shadow of his wife was always there, separating us!

IT'S SUCH A BEAUTIFUL DAY, I THOUGHT WE'D WORK ON THE OUTDOOR SCENES! WE COULD MAKE A PICNIC OF IT, IF YOU'D LIKE! I HAVE SOME THINGS READY IN A BASKET!

SOUNDS DELIGHTFUL, MARK! COMBINING WORK AND PLAY! BY ALL MEANS, LET'S DO IT!



THAT'S HIS HOUSE OVER THERE! SANDRA LIVES THERE ALONE WITH A NURSE IN CONSTANT ATTENDANCE! EVER SINCE THE ACCIDENT, SHE'S BEEN CONFINED TO A WHEEL CHAIR! AND SHE'S NEVER STOPPED ACCUSING MARK OF RUINING HER LIFE!

BUT HOW? HOW DID IT HAPPEN? AND WHERE'S THE CHILD?



SANDRA THINKS HE SAW IT AS A MEANS OF GETTING RID OF HER! SHE'S NEVER FORGIVEN HIM! MARK WAS PAINTING THIS PORTRAIT OF HER AT THE TIME! HE'S NEVER FINISHED IT! HE NEVER REALLY LOVED HER AND THAT MADE HIM FEEL EVEN MORE GUILTY!

POOR MARK! NO WONDER HE WAS SO BITTER!



I HAVEN'T DONE THIS SORT OF THING SINCE BEFORE THE WAR! JAN, I...

I KNOW, MARK! WE BOTH KNOW!

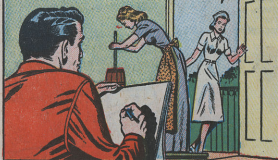


# LOVE CONFESSIONS

The years stretched out before us dimly, with no hope of happiness in our love for each other! Then suddenly, Fate intervened!

WHAT IS IT? WHAT IS IT, NURSE?

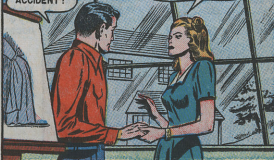
COME QUICKLY! IT'S MRS. RANDALL! SHE'S HAD A RELAPSE! SHE'S DYING!



My love mingled with his feelings of guilt, and we clung to each other helplessly for solace!

EVEN THOUGH SHE HATES ME, I WISH THERE WERE SOMETHING I COULD SAY, OR DO, TO MAKE THINGS EASIER FOR HER! MAKE HER UNDERSTAND IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!

SHE KNOWS, MARK! DEEP INSIDE HER SHE KNOWS THE TRUTH! REST NOW, MARK! THERE'S NOTHING MORE YOU CAN DO!



It was over! Mark was free! We were free! Free to give vent to the love that had been pent up throughout those painful months!

JAN, DARLING! I THOUGHT I'D NEVER HAVE THE RIGHT TO SAY, I LOVE YOU!

IT'S BEEN SO LONG, MARK! I'VE COUNTED EVERY MINUTE OF EVERY DAY!



Our lips clung hungrily as we tasted the ripe delicious fruit of love!



With the nurse gone, and Judy coming home from school, a new problem arose!

BUT HOW WILL YOU MANAGE WITH YOUR WORK AND TAKING CARE OF A DAUGHTER, TOO?

I HATE TO ASK IT OF YOU, JAN, BUT IT WOULD MEAN SO MUCH TO ME IF YOU WOULD LOOK AFTER JUDY WHEN SHE COMES! PLEASE SAY YES!



Mark stayed on in his studio and Judy and I lived in the big house! Life took on a new meaning for me! And then, one day as I walked through the village market, gossip reared its evil head!

AND THE POOR WOMAN NOT THREE MONTHS OUT OF HER HOUSE!

SHE OUGHT TO BE TARRED AND FEATHERED, THAT'S WHAT! THE HUSSY! CARRYING ON LIKE THAT WITH A MAN WHO RUINED HIS POOR, DEAR WIFE!



Mark too, became a target for their distorted suspicions!

AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHILDREN'S PROTECTORS, WE DEMAND THAT YOU STOP THIS DISGRACEFUL CONDUCT! EITHER THAT WOMAN GOES, OR THE CHILD SHOULD BE PLACED IN PROPER HANDS! WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO ABOUT IT?

I INTEND TO GIVE YOU TWO BUSY-BODIES JUST FIVE MINUTES TO GET OUT OF HERE! NOW GET! AND TAKE MY ADVICE AND DON'T COME BACK!





Even little Judy suffered at the hands of her playmates!

MY MOTHER SAYS YOUR FATHER SHOULD BE RUN OUT OF TOWN!

DADDY! DADDY! PLEASE DON'T! DADDY!



Every man, woman and child in Woodstone was against us! The shadow of hatred and resentment hung over us, no matter where we turned!

FLAUNTING THEIR WICKEDNESS RIGHT IN OUR FACES! THE NERVE OF THEM!

SOMETHING OUGHT TO BE DONE ABOUT IT, AND IT'S UP TO US MEN TO DO IT!



Not one of them knew how we fought our love, how we consoled ourselves with just being together... all the time wanting so much more and not daring to allow ourselves the happiness there for the taking!

IT WON'T ALWAYS BE LIKE THIS, DARLING! SOON THEY WILL FORGET AND THEN WE CAN BE MARRIED AND LIVE THE WAY WE WANT TO LIVE!

IT'S THE WAITING, MARK! WHAT WAS IT YOU SAID? "WAITING EATS AT YOU!"



We wanted so little! A chance to live, a chance to love! So very little!

WHAT DO THEY WANT OF US, MARK? IS IT SO BAD TO WANT TO LIVE IN PEACE? TO BE IN LOVE? IT'S LIKE SITTING ON A POWDER KEG, MARK! IT'S BOUND TO EXPLODE!

EASY, DARLING, EASY!

THERE'S NOTHING THEY CAN DO TO US AS LONG AS WE'RE IN THE RIGHT! AND IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG, YOU CAN TRUST ME TO TAKE CARE OF YOU!



Night after night, I lay awake, my eyes filled with tears and my heart bursting with the love I could not give!

MARK, DARLING, I CAN'T BEAR IT! I CAN'T WAIT! I NEED YOU SO!



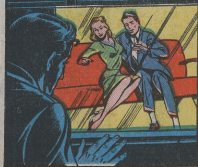
One night, worn out with the long struggle, we sought forgetfulness in each other's arms!



We suddenly became aware of watchful eyes at the window!

MARK! LOOK! AT THE WINDOW!

WHAT TH...



# LOVE CONFESSIONS

Fear for his safety mingled with my humiliation as I saw Mark rush out into the dark night!

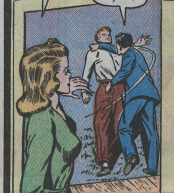
MARK! DON'T! THERE MAY BE OTHERS! MARK!



From the doorway I heard the thud of blows, saw Mark locked in struggle!

MARK, DARLING! BE CAREFUL! MARK!

YOU SNEAK! PEEP AT THIS! AND THIS! AND THIS!



When the clumsy figure broke away and ran off into the shadows, we both knew that the end was in sight! We clung together, giving each other strength and courage!

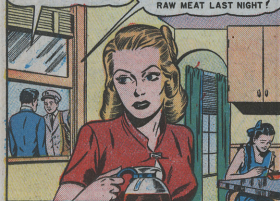
MARK, THERE WILL BE MORE TROUBLE! THIS IS WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR! LET THEM COME, DARLING! WE DIDN'T ASK FOR THIS FIGHT, BUT WE'LL GIVE THEM A RUN FOR THEIR MONEY!



We had not long to wait!

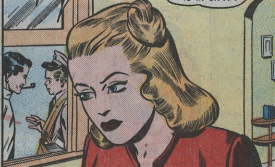
HELLO, HENRY! WHAT'S THE NEWS FROM TOWN?

'MORNING, MR. RANDALL! I HEAR YOU POUNDED A LITTLE RAW MEAT LAST NIGHT!



I SORT OF RAN INTO A SIDE OF BEEF IN THE DARK!

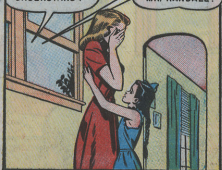
I NEVER DID LIKE THAT NOSY HYPOCRITE! YOU OUGHT TO KNOW, MR. RANDALL, HE'S GETTING EVERYBODY RILED UP! THEY'RE HAVING A MEETING TONIGHT TO RUN YOU OUT OF TOWN! EVERY GOSSIP AND RIGHTEOUS MALE IS IN ON IT!



And I knew what I had to do to save Mark and his child from the spiteful townspeople!

THANKS, HENRY! THANKS A LOT! I'LL BE READY FOR THEM WHEN THEY COME! I DON'T WANT THIS TO GET TO MISS MANSFIELD, OR JUDY! YOU UNDERSTAND!

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ANYTHING AND IF I KNEW, I WOULDN'T TELL ANYBODY! GOOD LUCK, MR. RANDALL!



I savored every single moment of that day! If it had to be our last, I wanted it to be the happiest day of our lives!

ARE WE HAVING A PARTY, JAN? IS IT SOMEBODY'S BIRTHDAY? EVERYTHING'S SO SPECIAL! IT'S BEAUTIFUL!

AND SO IS JAN! I THINK IT'S A GRAND IDEA, DARLING!





# LOVE CONFESSIONS

Dinner was over! A lovely dinner! I excused myself and went up to my room!

HOW THEY MUST HATE AND ENVY US FOR BEING HAPPY! ALL WE'VE DONE IS LOVE EACH OTHER!



I left the house unnoticed and as I expected, the streets were deserted!

THEY'RE ALL PROBABLY AT THE TOWN HALL! HOW I WOULD LOVE TO TELL THEM WHAT I THINK OF THEIR HYPOCRISY AND MEANNESS! WELL, WHY NOT?



And as I walked to the station, I realized that I couldn't run away, let myself be branded guilty, without facing my accusers!

ARE WE GOING TO LET THIS JEZEBEL CONTAMINATE OUR TOWN? I SAY RANDALL AND THIS WOMAN ARE UNFIT TO LIVE WITH DECENT PEOPLE!



I saw them shrink before the truth in my eyes, and I knew that our love was fine and good and worth fighting for!

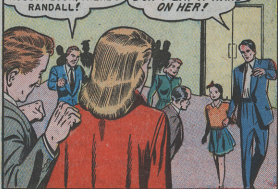
I ONLY WANT TO SAY THIS TO YOU! MARK RANDALL IS KIND AND GOOD! A DECENT MAN AND A DEVOTED FATHER! DON'T HOUND HIM BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE FOR ME! YOU'VE GOT WHAT YOU WANT! I'M LEAVING HERE TONIGHT! NOW, LEAVE HIM ALONE!



I barely saw the hand upraised to strike me down, but above the din of voices, I heard Mark's, loud and clear and commanding!

THROW HER OUT! THE HUSSY! LOOK, THERE'S RANDALL!

DON'T TOUCH HER! DON'T LAY A HAND ON HER!



As I stood there with Mark's arm around me and Judy beside us, I felt that no matter what happened, we had fought our biggest fight and had won!

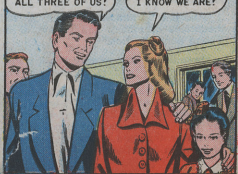
I WAS IN ONE WAR AGAINST THIS SORT OF THING AND I'M READY TO FIGHT YOU THE SAME WAY, NO HOLDS BARRED! JAN AND I ARE GOING TO GET MARRIED AND STAY RIGHT HERE IN WOODSTONE! AND ANYBODY WHO PICKS ON US FROM NOW ON WILL HAVE A HANDFUL OF TROUBLE!



As the three of us walked down that aisle, my heart sang as I looked ahead to another day, another aisle, and the beautiful life before us!

WE'RE GOING HOME FOR GOOD, DARLING! ALL THREE OF US!

WE'RE GOING TO BE SO HAPPY, MARK! I KNOW WE ARE!



# Who Knows Her Own Heart?

"MR. LON WENHAM asking to see the president of the firm?" I repeated after my secretary. "Send him in, and don't disturb us."

"At once, Miss Hastings." She left. Then Lon Wenham entered. At sight of me he turned pale under his tan.

"I was looking for the president—" he began.

"The president of the brokerage firm that fought you on the Exchange and cleaned you out?" I smiled. "I'm the president, Lon. How does it feel to be a pauper?"

He hesitated. "I'll probably know in a few minutes. The stock's on the skids—"

"And we make a fortune at your expense," I finished for him. "We sold short. Every point the stock falls, we profit and you lose."

He looked at me with a sort of mystified wonder. "Why, Thora? What did I ever do to you? We've been friends—seen a lot of each other—"

And we had. Many a hopeful debutante had mourned because Lon Wenham had no eyes or attention for anyone but Thora Hastings. It had been fun, too. Maybe more fun. . . . But I wouldn't let myself remember that.

"Your father smashed my father on the Stock Exchange twenty years ago," I reminded him.

"They're both dead," he said, still mystified.

"I wish your father had lived. I taught myself the stock market game with no notion of anything but getting back at him. He cheated me of my revenge—by dying. You're his son, his only son. You inherited his business. The Hastings are getting even with the Wenhams."

"You make it sound like a mountain family feud."

"And it is," I almost cried out. "A feud, with mountains of money and valleys of disaster. You're done for, Lon."

He smiled, a little wearily. "So it would seem. This has been hard to understand, Thora."

"The winner never understands why the loser should hate him, Lon." I was beginning to feel disappointed. I had expected to have more joy over his destruction than this. "But I'll remember this, and guard against any efforts of yours to fight back."

He shook his head. "I'd never fight you. Thora, you know that the wiping out of your father's enterprise was my father's doing, not mine. I never liked the cutthroat stock exchange business—I wouldn't have taken it up if my father hadn't died without arranging his affairs. I was only going to stay with the firm until everything was in order. Now, you've sort of done it for me!"

He sounded downright relieved. I stared at him.

"I can take up my scientific studies again," he said. "I have a very few dollars left, enough to keep alive until I come through with some experiments. Goodbye, Thora. Nice to have known you."

"Wait, Lon!" I cried, and sprang to my feet.

He turned, his hand on the door knob. "Wait for what?"

"If you need money for those experiments—" I paused. "After all, what I've won on the market was yours. Can I let you have a few thousand? A loan? A friendly loan?"

"We were never friends, Thora."

"No," I said hurriedly. "Not friends. But we were on the way to being—"

Again I paused, and he finished for me. "On the way to being sweethearts. Well, that wasn't on the books, either."

"It might have been," I argued, "if I hadn't been so wrapped up in revenge!"

"But you were. And you got your revenge. I have nothing. I'm a pauper. . . ."

The door flew open. My secretary thrust in a white, scared face.

"Miss Hastings! The market's taken a turn—that stock's going up, up, twenty points—"

She was gone. I looked at Lon, blankly and completely unstrung.

"My predictions went wrong," I said. "You're making money again, and it's my firm that's losing to you!"

"Let's keep our winnings and losses in the family, Thora," said Lon.

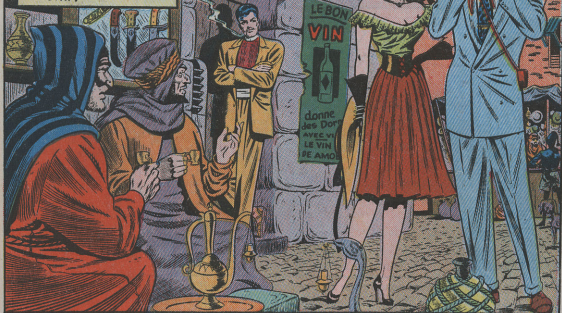
As he caught me in his arms, I realized for the first time just what sort of atonement I had sought from the son of the man who had wrecked my father's fortune.



# My Secret RENDEZVOUS

TRY TO IMAGINE YOURSELF IN MY PLACE! YOU HAVE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH A HANDSOME, MYSTERIOUS STRANGER...MADLY, HOPELESSLY IN LOVE! THEN, ONE MOONLIT EVENING, HE INVITES YOU INTO HIS APARTMENT...TAKES YOU IN HIS STRONG ARMS AND BRINGS HIS LIPS TO YOURS! WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WERE IN MY PLACE? WOULD YOU LEAVE OR WOULD YOU STAY?

HE'S LOOKING AT ME! I'M SURE OF IT! IF THERE WAS ONLY SOME WAY TO GET RID OF JEFF!



I met Jeff Barton on board ship...the first day out to sea! He was a senior at Carter College and one of our group of Midwestern students!

THERE SHE IS, LINDA, THE GOOD OLD ROCK OF GIBRALTAR! WE OUGHT TO REACH ALGIERS IN A DAY OR TWO!

ALGIERS! OH, JEFF... I CAN HARDLY WAIT! I'VE HEARD SO MANY THRILLING THINGS ABOUT IT!



GEE, LINDA, I'M CRAZY ABOUT YOU! I NEVER FELT THIS WAY ABOUT ANYONE BEFORE!

PLEASE DON'T TRY TO KISS ME, JEFF! WE'VE BEEN SUCH GOOD FRIENDS! LET'S NOT DO ANYTHING TO SPOIL IT NOW!



Somehow, I had begun to regard Jeff as a sort of big brother! There just didn't seem to be any place in our relationship for romance!

# LOVE CONFESSIONS

By the time we reached Algiers, Jeff seemed cheerful enough! I guess he must have reconciled himself to the role I had assigned to him!



GOSH, WHAT A SIGHT! DID YOU NOTICE HOW THE WHOLE TOWN IS BUILT ALONG THE SIDE OF A HILL? AND RIGHT NEAR THE TOP OF THE HILL IS THE NATIVE QUARTER! THAT'S THE PART THEY CALL THE CASBAH!

OH, JEFF, WE'LL SIMPLY HAVE TO PAY IT A VISIT! I WOULDN'T THINK OF SPENDING THREE WHOLE DAYS IN ALGERS WITHOUT SEEING THE CASBAH!



The thought of visiting the famous Algerian Casbah stirred my imagination to fever pitch! I lay awake most of the night, trying to visualize what the next day would bring!

I WONDER IF THE CASBAH IS REALLY AS ROMANTIC AS IT SOUNDS! MOTHER WOULD HAVE A FIT IF SHE KNEW I PLANNED TO WEAR MY DIAMOND NECKLACE TOMORROW!



The following afternoon, Jeff and I set out for, the Casbah...

OH, JEFF! YOU'RE TURNING PALE AS A GHOST, LINDA! THERE IT IS! WHAT'S THE MATTER? ARE YOU AFRAID TO GO IN?

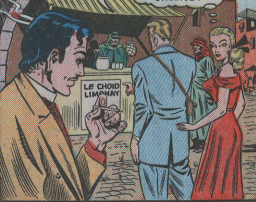


Slowly, hesitantly, I followed Jeff to the top of the ancient stairway! Then, minutes later...



WHOW! IT SURE IS HOT IN THE CASBAH! HERE'S A FELLOW SELLING LEMONADE! I'LL GET SOME!

THAT MAN IN THE DOORWAY... HE KEEPS STARING AT ME! I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH EYES! THEY MAKE ME FEEL SO STRANGE!



His glances were so tender and warm, I could almost feel them caress my entire being! Even after I finished my lemonade, his deep, meaningful eyes continued to follow me! It was as if they were saying, "Come Back! Come Back!"

BETTER GET A MOVE ON, LINDA! WE'VE STILL GOT PLENTY TO SEE! SAY! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU ANYWAY? YOU ACT AS IF YOU'RE GLUED TO THE PAVEMENT!

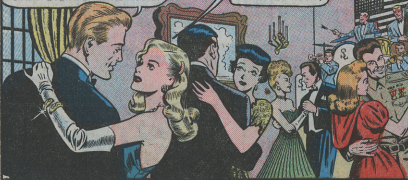
HE'S STILL LOOKING AT ME! JEFF DOESN'T NOTICE THE MAGNETIC ATTRACTION THAT FLASHES BETWEEN ME AND THAT FASCINATING STRANGER!



That evening we attended a dance given by the American Consul! I don't believe I ever danced so miserably in my life!

WHAT'S GOT INTO YOU, LINDA? YOU'VE BEEN WALKING AROUND THIS FLOOR LIKE A ZOMBIE! SOMETIMES YOU ACT AS IF YOU DON'T EVEN HEAR THE MUSIC!

I'M SORRY, JEFF! I GUESS I'M JUST NOT FEELING VERY WELL TONIGHT! I THINK I'D BETTER RETURN TO MY HOTEL ROOM!



YOU'D BETTER LET ME TAKE YOU AS FAR AS THE HOTEL! NO, JEFF, I WOULDN'T THINK OF IT! YOU STAY RIGHT HERE AND FIND SOME NICE GIRL TO DANCE WITH! I'LL MAKE IT ALL RIGHT MYSELF!





# LOVE CONFESSIONS

I had fallen in love... hopelessly, completely in love! And with a stranger to whom I had never even spoken!

As soon as I left Jeff, I found myself running breathlessly across town! Before long I was groping through the narrow, winding streets of the **CASBAH!**

HE'S GONE! AND ALL THE TIME I WAS SO SURE HE'D BE WAITING! I'VE BEEN A FOOL... A SILLY, CONCEITED FOOL! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN...

BON SOIR, MADemoiselle!

I was too surprised to notice where he had come from! I only remember that his voice was deep and resonant... like beautiful music! And that a great, wild joy leaped into my veins as I looked up into a pair of loving eyes!

I DID NOT BELIEVE YOU WOULD COME BACK! I DID NOT DARE TO BELIEVE IT!

I HAD TO COME BACK! I HAD TO! I HAD TO!

IT IS TOO CHILLY OUTSIDE FOR A FLOWER AS DELICATE AND BEAUTIFUL AS YOU! COME... WE SHALL GO **INSIDE!**

AH... WE ARE IN TIME! MY SERVANT HAS JUST BREWED A FRESH POT OF COFFEE!

As he continued to speak, the soft, hypnotic music of his voice seemed to transport me into some heavenly sphere!

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT THERE ARE ONLY THREE THINGS THAT CAN **NEVER** BE HIDDEN IN THE CASBAH! THE FIRST IS A MOUNTAIN... THE SECOND, A MAN RIDING ON A CAMEL...

OH, HOW BEAUTIFUL! HE IS TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING! I KNOW IT! I KNOW IT!

AND THE THIRD THING IS A MAN'S LOVE FOR A **WOMAN!** IT IS OF YOU I SPEAK, **CHERIE...** OF YOU! NO LONGER CAN I BURY THE SECRET IN MY HEART! I AM IN LOVE WITH YOU... **MADLY, INSANELY IN LOVE!**

OH!

Slowly, tenderly, he moved forward! Then suddenly, his arms were holding me against his chest, as if they were rods of living fire! My quivering body was melting in his passionate embrace... my trembling lips caressing **his!**



# LOVE CONFESSIONS



THIS AFTERNOON WHEN I SAW YOU FOR THE FIRST TIME, I KNEW THAT I HAD JUST GAZED UPON THE MOST BEAUTIFUL JEWEL IN THE WORLD! MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN ALL THE RUBIES IN INDIA... MORE EXQUISITE THAN THE GEMS THAT ADORN YOUR LOVELY THROAT!



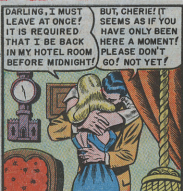
CHERIE! MY ADORABLE ONE! SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME TOO! SAY IT! SAY IT!

I DO! I DO! WITH ALL MY HEART! WITH THE MOST GLORIOUS LOVE THAT ANY GIRL EVER DREAMED OF!

Once again, he set his sweet mouth against my hungry lips... and heard my answering heart against his! And as the sweeping fire of our mutual love raced in abandoned joy, I knew that this was a love that was meant to be!



This wonderful, impossible dream continued to spread its fabric around me, while the minutes flew by with the speed of life!



DARLING, I MUST LEAVE AT ONCE! IT IS REQUIRED THAT I BE BACK IN MY HOTEL ROOM BEFORE MIDNIGHT!

BUT, CHERIE! IT SEEMS AS IF YOU HAVE ONLY BEEN HERE A MOMENT! PLEASE DON'T GO! NOT YET!



I'LL COME BACK, DARLING! I PROMISE! I'LL BE BACK TO-MORROW!

MY CHERIE! YOU HAVE MADE ME THE HAPPIEST MAN IN THE WORLD! I SHALL COUNT THE SECONDS UNTIL YOU RETURN!



NOTHING WILL BE CHANGED, DARLING... I PROMISE! I WILL RETURN JUST THE WAY YOU SEE ME NOW!

AU REVOIR, MY VISION OF LOVELINESS! GOOD NIGHT, MY HEART!

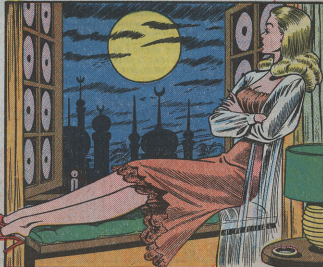
My legs carried me out of the Casbah to the feverish rhythm of my pounding heart! It was two minutes to twelve when I reached the hotel! I didn't dare breathe a word to my roommate, Ethel, about my amazing experience!



FOR GOODNESS SAKE, LINDA, WHERE HAVE BEEN? MISS GILDER, YOU REALLY SLEEVE, OUR CHAPER-ONE, IS POSITIVELY FRANTIC! WE THOUGHT YOU WERE SWALLOWED UP BY THE CASBAH OR SOMETHING!

FOOLISH GIRL! DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE ALL THOSE SILLY STORIES ABOUT THE CASBAH?

It was impossible to drive the searing flame of his love out of my mind! I sat up most of the night... exulting in the glistening beauty of the moon-bathed roof tops... Imagining that he was beside me, covering my hand with his impassioned kisses!





# LOVE CONFESSIONS

The next morning I saw Jeff at breakfast! Somehow, his whole manner of speaking started to irritate me! He now seemed so ordinary and unworldly!



SAY, WHAT'S COME OVER YOU ANYWAY? A FELLOW CAN'T EVEN TALK TO YOU ANYMORE!

JEFF, I MIGHT AS WELL BE FRANK! I DON'T THINK YOU AND I HAVE ANYTHING IN COMMON ANYMORE! IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR BOTH OF US IF WE HAD NOTHING MORE TO DO WITH EACH OTHER! NOW, JEFF, IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'M GOING BACK TO MY ROOM!



Only one person mattered to me now! And that afternoon, as I sat in front of my vanity mirror, I remembered the masterful, smiling curve of his lips... the burning fire in his deep, understanding eyes!



Sometime later...

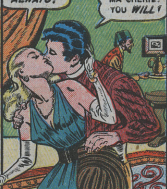


MA CHERIE! LOVE! MY ANGEL! HOW I HAVE WAITED ALL THESE ETERNAL HOURS! I THOUGHT THIS MOMENT WOULD NEVER COME!

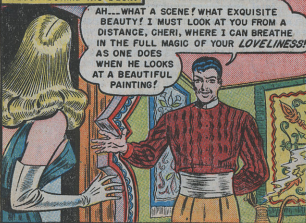


He kissed me again and again! And as I felt his restless hand against my neck, a hot flush of tingling passion coursed through my throbbing veins! This is no youthful infatuation, I confided to myself! This is a love that will never die!

MY DARLING! I LOVE YOU SO MUCH! I NEVER DREAMED THAT A LOVE LIKE MINE COULD REALLY EXIST! I WANT TO BE WITH YOU ALWAYS... ALWAYS!



Then, suddenly, he began to move back... as far as the coffee table! For some strange reason, he kept one hand hidden behind his back!



Then, as if he had seen enough, he returned to my waiting arms!



# LOVE CONFESSIONS

OH GOSH! IT'S GONE! THE NECKLACE IS GONE!

BUT YOU WEREN'T WEARING IT WHEN YOU ENTERED THE ROOM, CHERI! IT MUST HAVE FALLEN OFF YOUR NECK BEFORE YOU ARRIVED! WE WILL SEARCH THE CASBAH AT ONCE!

The realization that I had lost my precious necklace upset me completely! As he went into the next room for his jacket, I reached for the pitcher of hot coffee...hoping this would quiet my nerves!

HEAVENS! WHAT'S THIS COMING OUT OF THE PITCHER? MY DIAMOND NECKLACE!

Only one person could have dropped that necklace into the coffee pitcher... Only *ONE* person! As I considered the implications of this hard, cruel fact, a blush of shame swept over me!

COME, DARLING... WE'D BETTER HURRY! WE'VE GOT TO FIND THAT NECKLACE!

YOU CAN TAKE OFF YOUR JACKET NOW! THE NECKLACE HAS ALREADY BEEN FOUND!

As my whirling brain recalled all that had happened before, I could reach only one conclusion! The man I thought I loved more than anything in the world was nothing but a common *thief*!

BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND, CHERI! HOW COULD...

WELL, I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND... *PLENTY*! I'VE LET YOU PLAY YOUR DECEITFUL GAME LONG ENOUGH... YOU FILTHY HYPOCRITE... YOU... YOU *BLUEBEARD*!

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE SAYING, CHERIE! I LOVE YOU WITH ALL MY HEART! YOU ARE MY LIFE... MY *EVERYTHING*!

I'M ON TO YOUR FILTHY SCHEME, YOU BEAST! YOU WERE JUST PLAYING WITH MY HEART... TURNING MY HEAD WITH YOUR FIENDISH KISSES... SO THAT YOU COULD REMOVE MY *NECKLACE* WHILE YOU HAD ME UNDER YOUR SPELL!

DON'T TRY TO DENY IT... YOU *RASPUTIN*! YOU WERE GOING TO TAKE ME OUT ON A WILD GOOSE CHASE SO THAT YOUR ACCOMPLICE COULD REMOVE THE NECKLACE FROM THE COFFEE PITCHER! IT'S *YOU* WHO TOOK IT OFF MY NECK! IT'S *YOU* WHO DROPPED IT INTO THE PITCHER!

SO! YOU HAVE FOUND IT! VERY WELL... YOU LITTLE FOOL! WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE TO DO NOW?

I'M GOING STRAIGHT TO THE POLICE AND TELL THEM THE WHOLE STORY! LET ME OUT OF HERE... YOU SCOUNDRELS!

CHIEF! WE CAN'T LET HER GO! IF SHE TALKS TO THE GENDARMES, WE'LL BOTH GO TO *DEVIL'S ISLAND* FOR LIFE!

YOU ARE RIGHT, ALI! GET THE ROPE! WE'LL SEE THAT SHE NEVER GETS OUT OF HERE... *ALIVE*!

Hours passed... and my two villainous captors were still trying to decide my fate!

WHY DELAY IT ANY LONGER, CHIEF? THE QUICKER WE FINISH HER OFF, THE BETTER!

YOUR POINT IS WELL TAKEN, ALI! WE CAN'T LET ONE WHINING FEMALE PUT US OUT OF BUSINESS! THERE IS TOO MUCH AT STAKE! MANY MORE SUSCEPTIBLE FOREIGN WOMEN WILL BE COMING PAST OUR DOOR, ALL WEARING EXPENSIVE JEWELS!

UGH! THE CHEAP, LYING SCOUNDREL! HE'S PROBABLY LURED HUNDREDS OF OTHERS INTO HIS TRAP... AND BROKEN THEIR HEARTS THE WAY HE NEARLY BROKE MINE!



Everything seemed lost! Would I soon be dead.... hidden for all eternity under the shadowy catacombs of the Casbah?



WHO IS THIS?  
HE SAYS HE IS ONE OF US, CHIEF... THAT HE BEARS A MESSAGE WHICH HE MUST DELIVER, HIMSELF!

**LOVE CONFESSIONS**  
The shoes jutting out of the man's garments suddenly looked very familiar! Without thinking, I blurted out...



JEFF! IT'S A GET HIM, GET HIM, GET HIM! IT'S A RUSE! IT'S A FRIEND OF MINE! THEY'LL KILL YOU! OF MINE IN DISGUISE!



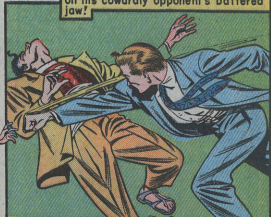
If Jeff delivered any message, he must have done so in Morse Code... on his cowardly opponent's battered jaw!

As the two accomplices lay unconscious on the floor, Jeff and his third antagonist stood like stone images... staring at each other! Then Jeff began to advance...

GET READY TO RECEIVE THAT MESSAGE, YOU TWO-TIMING RAT!



NO! NO! PLEASE! I'LL GIVE YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT! DON'T TOUCH ME!



OH...JEFF! JUST BLAME IT ON MALE INTUITION, HONEY! YESTERDAY WHEN I SAW THIS RAT GIVE YOU THAT COME-HITHER LOOK IN FRONT OF HIS DOORWAY, I FIGURED HE WAS UP TO NO GOOD! SO WHEN THE WORD GOT AROUND THAT YOU WERE OVERDUE AT THE HOTEL TONIGHT, I DECIDED TO DO A LITTLE PRIVATE INVESTIGATING!



I thought I had come to the Casbah to find the man of my dreams! And all along, the most romantic hero in the world was right at my side!

AND YOU CAME HERE DISGUISED AS ONE OF THE NATIVES... THEN RISKED YOUR LIFE TO SAVE MINE! OH... JEFF! HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU!



Jeff lifted me into manly arms... and as his lips caught mine in a flood of tremulous kisses, my only answer was to lift them up for MORE! Here at last was a love that was real and true and sweet! A love that a girl need never hide from the world!



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